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Dated: December 19, 2005

Signature:

*Roger A. Heppermann*  
(Roger A. Heppermann)

Docket No.: 06005/37170  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Michael D. Apel et al.

Application No.: 09/871,115

Confirmation No.: 9797

Filed: May 31, 2001

Art Unit: 2182

For: INPUT/OUTPUT DEVICE WITH  
CONFIGURATION, FAULT ISOLATION AND  
REDUNDANT FAULT ASSIST  
FUNCTIONALLY

Examiner: T. Q. Nguyen

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.116)**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated August 18, 2005, finally rejecting claims 12-30, 56-71, 80 and 87-90, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 20 of this paper.